DGR

ner conjectures re 4/8/71 "threat"(?) 7/8/71

Several aspects have been particularly troubling. While I had been aware of some possibilities, I had not passed them on because nobody else had reached similar conclusions separately. Here I want ot again emphasize that these are not general mailings to critics, that I have selected only a few on special basis having to do with skills, differences in disciplines and ways of thinging, etc., and that all of this must be kept quiet.

Today one agreed that I may have been referred to rather than, say, Lane, for two of the less obvious reasons: I continued work in the field after Lane quit it and I alone have worked on the King assassination of those who have published. One raised the question, could the author depend on the addressee knowing me, as he did not. Another suggests that the author wanted the addressee to do some checking and concluded in advance that he would from the nature of what was written.

Ball and Chain, capitalized, can refer to a wife, rarely to a husband. Another obvious reference is to a prisoner. Finally someone else has seen what I regarded as far out and still do, the relationship of "Ball & Chain" and "fission". James Earl Ray is jailed at Petros, which is but a s ort distance past Oak Ridge from Knoxville. Going to Petros from Knoxville, one goes past Oak Ridge, almost through it.

Another still earlier suggested that in the line "Earl George Sande" the intended reference is to Ray. There remains no independent support. However, a check is being made into George Sand, the original womens' lib gal. She was born Amandine Aurore Lucie Dupin, married the Baron Budevant, becomming the Baronne, had two children during this married (of about 8 years), which is not the same as saying she bore him two children, took her pen name from a simplification of that of a lover-collaborator, had countless affairs, the one that came to mind immediately having been with Chopin, and was one of the world's most pfolific novelists. I do not recall weel enought to have any independent recollection of her children or whether she had any when not married. I do recall long passages from a bio of Chopin I read years ago. But this history, if the "George Sande" is a reference to George Sand, ought to make the children of interest re "barfly heir".

Today's source checked a source I do not have, the Columbia(University) encyclopaedia for Duncan. There was-hold tight- one Robert Kennedy Duncan, born in Canada but moved to the U.S. where he was an indistrial chemist, educator and popularizer in writing. He was at the Univ of Kansas and Pitt. At Kansas he started a system of fellowships that were latter more developed in the Mellon fellowships. 1869-1911.

Today's source is a trusted investigative-reporter friend. He regards this thing as sophisticated and not to be ignored. It also fascinates him. If he can he will send a xerox of the Columbia bio in case anyone is interested in details. It may be difficult or impossible to copy clearly (bulk of volume).

If anyone has wondered about the hierarchy in nobility re: Earl, it is, from the top, duke, marquis, earl, viscount, baron.

HW